Appl. No. 09/539,749
Reply Filed: April 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Oct. 28, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 6, 9, 11-12 and 14, cancel claims 7-8, 10, 13 and 15-24, and add claims 25-30 as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A multimedia authoring system, comprising:

a graphical user interface for enabling a user to interactively author a presentation using a timeline comprising one or more first tracks for temporal media and one or more second tracks for nontemporal media, and for specifying a layout specification defining a spatial relationship among the temporal and nontemporal media in a display area, wherein the layout specification indicates, indicating an association of for each track of the one or more first tracks and one or more second tracks with a portion of the display location area in which media from the track will be displayed;

a viewer having access to the timeline and the layout specification and having an output providing display information for displaying the temporal media and the nontemporal media combined according to the timeline and the layout specification, for each of one or more specified times along the timeline; and

an encoder having access to the timeline and the layout specification and having an output for providing a streaming media presentation containing the temporal media and events associated with references to the nontemporal media combined according to the timeline and the layout specification.

2. (Original) The multimedia authoring system of claim 1, further comprising a transfer tool for transferring one or more files including the streaming media presentation to a first streaming media server and one or more data files including the nontemporal media to a second server.

3. (Original) The multimedia authoring system of claim 2, wherein the encoder confirms availability of the data files before encoding the presentation.

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4. (Original) The multimedia authoring system of claim 2, further comprising means for previewing the streaming media presentation from the first streaming media server.

5. (Original) The multimedia authoring system of claim 2, further comprising means for previewing the streaming media presentation before transferring of the streaming media presentation by the transfer tool.

6. (Currently Amended) A system for editing a presentation of temporal and nontemporal media, graphical user interface comprising:

    a timeline comprising one or more first tracks for temporal media and one or more second tracks for nontemporal media, including a table of contents track, wherein the nontemporal media includes one or more elements comprising one or more characters, each associated with a point in time on the table of contents track; and

    means for permitting a user to specify a layout specification defining a spatial relationship among the temporal and nontemporal media in a display area, wherein the layout specification indicates, for each track of the one or more first tracks and one or more second tracks, a portion of the display area in which media from the track will be displayed; and

    a display window in which the temporal media and nontemporal media are displayed with timing defined by the timeline, and in which the temporal media and the nontemporal media are displayed at display locations in the display window as defined by the layout specification, and wherein selection by the user of the displayed characters of the one or more elements in the table of contents track initiates display of the temporal and nontemporal media from the point in time of the selected element.

7-8. Cancelled.

9. (Currently Amended) A graphical user interface system for authoring a multimedia presentation, comprising:

    a timeline comprising one or more first tracks enabling a user to specify a sequence of temporal media and one or more second tracks enabling a user to specify nontemporal media in a temporal relationship with the temporal media;

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means for enabling a user to specify a layout specification defining a spatial relationship among the temporal and nontemporal media in a display area, wherein the layout specification indicates, for ~~enabling a user to specify an association between~~ each track of at least one of the one or more first tracks and at least one of the one or more second tracks, a portion of the display area in which media from the track will be displayed ~~and a location~~; and

an output through which the temporal media are presented, and in which at least the nontemporal media are presented with a spatial relationship with the temporal media as specified ~~at locations defined~~ by the layout specification and with a temporal relationship with the . temporal media as specified by the timeline, for each of one or more specified times along the timeline.

10. Cancelled.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~graphical user interface~~ system of claim 9, further comprising a time bar associated with the timeline and manipulable by a user to specify the one or more specified times.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~graphical user interface~~ system for authoring a multimedia presentation, comprising:

a timeline comprising one or more first tracks enabling a user to specify a sequence of temporal media and one or more second tracks enabling a user to specify nontemporal media in a temporal relationship with the temporal media;

an interface enabling a user to specify a spatial relationship among the temporal media and the nontemporal media in a display area including an indication for each track in the timeline a portion of the display area in which media from the track will be displayed; and

one or more outputs through which the temporal media are presented, and in which at least the nontemporal media are presented in the specified spatial relationship with the temporal media ~~at locations defined by the layout specification~~ and with a the temporal relationship with the temporal media as specified by the timeline, for each of one or more specified times along the timeline.

13. Cancelled.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~graphical user interface~~ system of claim 12, further comprising a time bar associated with the timeline and manipulable by a user to specify the one or more specified times.

15-24. Cancelled.

25. (New) A computer program product, comprising:

a computer readable medium;

computer program instructions stored on the computer readable medium that, when processed by a computer, instruct the computer to implement a user interface for a system for authoring a multimedia presentation, wherein the user interface comprises:

a timeline comprising one or more first tracks enabling a user to specify a sequence of temporal media and one or more second tracks enabling a user to specify nontemporal media in a temporal relationship with the temporal media;

a display area through which a visual portion of the multimedia presentation is displayed;

an interface enabling a user to specify a spatial relationship among the temporal media and the nontemporal media in the display area, including an indication, for each track in the timeline for which media data is displayed in the display area, of a portion of the display area in which media from the track will be displayed; and

whereby the nontemporal media are presented in the specified spatial relationship with the temporal media and in the specified temporal relationship with the temporal media as specified by the timeline.

26. (New) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the user interface further comprises a time bar associated with the timeline and manipulable by the user to specify one or more times in the presentation, and wherein a portion of the multimedia presentation is presented according to the one or more specified times in the presentation.

27. (New) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein one of the one or more second tracks is a table of contents track, wherein the nontemporal media includes one or more elements comprising one or more characters, each associated with a point in time on the table of contents track, and wherein the user interface further comprises:

in the display area, a portion in which characters of the one or more elements in the table of contents track are displayed; and

an interface to permit selection by the user of one of the one or more elements in the table of contents track to initiate display of the multimedia presentation from the point in time of the selected element from the table of contents track.

28. (New) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the spatial relationship among temporal media and nontemporal media is defined by a layout specification in which the display area is divided into a plurality of frames and each of the plurality of frames is assigned to one of the first or second tracks of the timeline.

29. (New) The computer program product of claim 28, wherein the layout specification is further defined by a document in a markup language that defines a set of frames in a display area, and wherein a definition of each frame in the set of frames includes an indication of a track of the timeline to which the frame is assigned.

30. (New) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the document in the markup language further includes additional nontemporal media that is displayed as part of the multimedia presentation.